



Cape to Cape Catchments Group Annual Report 2016

'Inspiring and assisting the community to protect and enhance the environment of the Margaret River region'

The Cape to Cape Catchments Group (CCG) is an independent not-for-profit organisation. In partnership with the community, we coordinate a range of natural resource management projects across the Margaret River region of Western Australia extending from Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin. Our work is vital to the ongoing social, economic and environmental well-being of our region and our community.

CCG MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

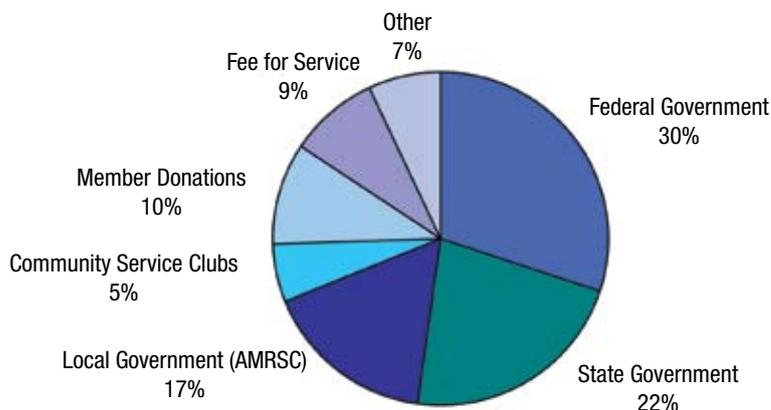
CCG has an open membership of over 350 members including individuals, community groups, landowners, local businesses and local and State government agencies. We keep in touch through our website, Facebook page and regular newsletters which provide updates on events, participation and contribution opportunities and project outcomes. CCG Membership is FREE, however donations to assist us with our work are critical to our success. All donations to the CCG Public Fund are 100% tax deductible.

OUR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

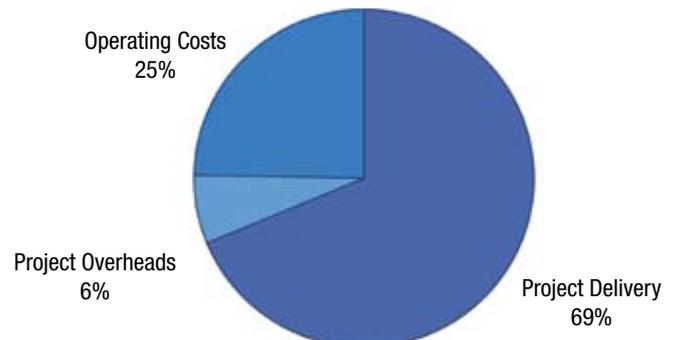
CCG received funding and support during 2015/16 from State and Federal grants programs, South West Catchments Council (SWCC), Shire of Augusta Margaret River (AMRSC), Lotterywest, Water Corporation, Department of Water, Margaret River Rotary Club, Cowaramup Lions Club, Augusta Lions Club and participating 'Our Patch' schools. Our community, members and local businesses are also key supporters, donating money, time and services for schools programs, events and on-ground projects. CCG would like to make a special mention of Cape Mentelle and Voyager Estate who supported fundraising and supporter functions during 2015/16.

2015/16 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income \$319,100.24



Expenditure \$376,626.76



*Cape to Cape
Catchments Group*
MARGARET RIVER WESTERN AUSTRALIA

'Our Environment - Our Future'

CCG PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENT 2015/2016

CONSERVE THE MARGARET RIVER

A comprehensive program to ensure the Margaret River and its tributaries remain healthy and resilient.



BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF THE MARGARET RIVER

Targeted on ground action focused on protecting and restoring ecosystem function, resilience and biodiversity of the Margaret River was continued. Achievements included revegetation at 7 sites, fencing at 4 sites and continuation of coordinated blackberry and arum lily control programs in partnership with landowners. This work was jointly supported by the National Landcare and State NRM programs, the Water Corporation, Department of Water, AMRSC and landowners. A community workshop on arum lily control and a foreshore tour to showcase the values of the Margaret River to CCG's key partners were also conducted.

MARGARET RIVER CATCHMENT PLANNING

A 3 year catchment planning process was commenced with a review of past work undertaken on the foreshores of the Margaret River and in the catchment. Community consultation will be undertaken over the next year leading to the preparation of a Margaret River Catchment Plan to guide future management.

AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

Work continued in partnership with Fisheries Department researchers to protect the critically endangered hairy marron. Supported by National Landcare and State NRM Program funding, and with the assistance of local volunteers, CCG undertook 10 marron fish out events to reduce numbers of the introduced smooth marron in Canebrake and Long Pools. An education event saw researchers from Murdoch University demonstrating survey equipment and sharing information with 'Our Patch' students.

MARGARET RIVER FRIENDS GROUPS

Supported by AMRSC CCG worked to encourage the establishment of 3 Friends Groups for Riverslea, Barrett Street and A Class reserves along the Margaret River. 5 planning and 14 on ground work sessions undertaking weeding, revegetation and monitoring were conducted with the groups. Interpretative signage for two reserves and erosion control management work in Barrett Street Reserve were also completed.

MAINTAINING HEALTHY STREAMS

A program of on ground work and landowner engagement to maintain the future health of the fourteen other streams in the Margaret River region.



BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT USING STREAM CONDITION INFORMATION

CCG initiated a process of identifying high biodiversity areas across the Margaret River landscape using geographical information system (GIS). Foreshore condition assessment data gained through river action planning combined with data on remnant vegetation extent and connectivity is providing a picture of high biodiversity areas across the region. Assessment work will guide priority weed control action, strategically focusing efforts where the best biodiversity outcomes can be achieved.

COORDINATED LANDOWNER ENGAGEMENT IN ARUM CONTROL

A successful program of landowner engagement in arum lily control in strategic locations in the region was implemented. Supported by 50% landowner financial contributions the program continued in the Calgardup, Redgate, Burnside and Kilcarnup communities with engaged landowners increasing steadily throughout the 2015 arum season. This coordinated approach is starting to see real success in addressing this invasive weed. Staff also provided advice and information to landowners throughout the region wishing to undertake their own arum lily control.

SUPPORT COASTCARE

A program to support community groups to protect and manage the Capes' coastal environment.



COASTAL REHABILITATION IN PREVELLY/GNARABUP

Funded by a SWCC Groundworks Grant, CCG supported the Margaret River Coastal Residents Association's (MRCRA) continued volunteer rehabilitation work on the dunes at Gnarabup/Prevelly. MRCRA conducted weekly volunteer workdays undertaking weed and erosion control activities. An update of the coastal foreshore condition assessment in 2013 was undertaken showing marked improvements since the November 2011 bushfires. Erosion control fencing at beach access points and continued pyp grass control were also completed.

FRIENDS OF REDGATE BEACH

CCG continued its association with the Redgate coastal environment by supporting the revitalisation of the Friends of Redgate Beach. Headed by long term CCG volunteers Steve and Vere Fairbairn, the group held its first community activity day with 12 volunteers undertaking weeding and planting activities and assessing access issues. CCG will continue to support the Friends Group with advice, promotion of activities and loan of equipment.

REDUCING THE THREATS TO OUR BIODIVERSITY

A program of whole of landscape planning and targeted, coordinated and sustained on ground action to protect our unique biodiversity.



FIRE AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING

CCG continued its work to promote consideration of biodiversity protection in fire management planning across the region. A Bushfire Planning and Biodiversity Field Day was held in partnership with FESA, DPAW, AMRSC and local volunteer brigades. In excess of 100 attendees participated in bus tours, burning demonstrations and preparedness walks. Work was also progressed on a fire and biodiversity landowner information kit scheduled for completion in late 2016.

WEEDS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

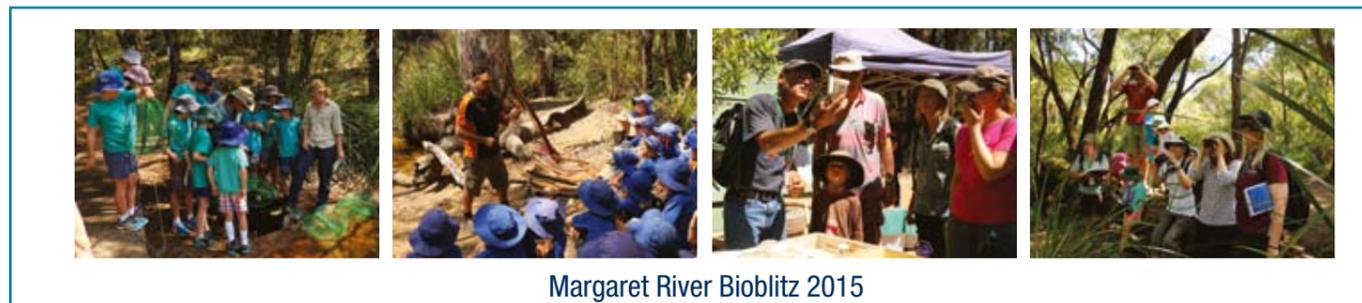
Funded by an Australian Government Community Environment Grant high priority and emerging weeds of national significance (WONS) were controlled at 23 locations across the region. Mapping of new infestations and detailed planning to address WONS and alert weed issues at Devils Pool on the lower Boodjidup Brook was also undertaken.

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL WEED COORDINATION

Funded by the State NRM Program CCG began implementation of the Capes Regional Environmental Weed Strategy prepared in April 2015. A Capes Regional Environment Weed Management Group was established to maximise weed control success and ensure work is coordinated and sustained. Members of the Group include CCG, Shire of Augusta Margaret River, City of Busselton, Department of Parks and Wildlife, South West Catchments Council and local land conservation district committees. The Group will contribute to the development of the management plans for 10 priority weed species currently being prepared.

MARRI DECLINE RESEARCH

CCG communicated the final findings of the Australian Research Council (ARC) funded marri decline research project to the community through a workshop in August 2015. The next steps in this important research will be discussed with Murdoch University researchers in late 2016.



Margaret River Bioblitz 2015

CCG SUPPORT PROGRAMS 2015/16

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

CCG continued to raise community awareness of the special values of the Margaret River region through events and presentations. Funded by the Royalties for Regions Community Chest Fund, the Margaret River Bioblitz 2015 brought together school students, community members and local scientists for three days of fun, interactive nature exploring in the A Class Reserve on the Margaret River. 200 primary school students and 220 community members participated in the schools day, night stalks and community discovery day. Bioblitz presentations on Rakali and Western Ringtail Possums continued the citizen science theme of the event.

OUR PATCH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

'Our Patch' moved to a multi-funder model during 2015/16 with continued support from the Margaret River Rotary Club and Cowaramup Lions Club and new support from AMRSC's Environmental Management Fund and participating 'Our Patch' Schools. The highly successful program worked across 7 schools in the region educating over 500 Year 3 and Year 6 students about the values and issues facing the natural environment of 'Our Patch' – the Margaret River region. The Program delivered 24 incursions, 35 excursions, 2 student presentations and a Schools Bioblitz day as part of the Margaret River Bioblitz 2015.

RESEARCH AND CITIZEN SCIENCE

CCG consolidated its research and citizen science activities through a research and monitoring workshop. The workshop brought together researchers, local scientists and CCG staff to present their work and discuss future research partnerships to guide management of the Margaret River region. Current State NRM Program capability support is now allowing CCG to develop some of the research and citizen science opportunities identified at the workshop.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

CCG maintained an email registry of local community members interested in volunteer work in the Margaret River region and notified them when volunteer opportunities arose. Regular posts on the CCG and Capes Volunteer Team Facebook pages also alerted the community to volunteer activities. Volunteers were engaged to assist with hairy marron fish out activities, coastal and foreshore rehabilitation including planting, weed removal and beach clean ups. Local scientists were also engaged on a volunteer basis for 'Our Patch' education excursions and for the Margaret River Bioblitz 2015.

THE YEAR AHEAD

- Continued revegetation and coordinated weed control programs to protect biodiversity and build resilience in the Margaret River environment.
- Community consultation towards preparation of a Catchment Plan for the Margaret River and its catchment.
- Development of research and monitoring partnerships with research institutions, agencies and organisations to better understand our environment.
- Initiation of a citizen science based threatened species program focusing on species most at risk in our region.
- Continued smooth marron fish outs in the upper pools of the Margaret River to protect the critically endangered hairy marron.
- Training of an aquatic biodiversity volunteer team and initiation of citizen science monitoring programs for the Margaret River.
- Continued priority weed action including coordination through the Capes Regional Environmental Weed Group, preparation of 10 management plans for priority species and weed control in strategic locations.
- Continued landowner engagement in a coordinated neighbourhood arum lily control program focused on areas of high biodiversity.
- Continued support for friends groups undertaking rehabilitation on the Margaret River foreshores and formation of groups in other priority areas.
- Publication of a fire and biodiversity landowner kit to assist landowners address issues on private property.
- Continued support for groups undertaking coastal rehabilitation on the Prevelly/Gnarabup coastal strip and at Redgate Beach.
- Continuation of the Our Patch Environmental Education Program in 7 local primary schools in the region.
- Development of an Adopt a Spot Program to link 'Our Patch' schools with local bushland, foreshore or coastal sites.
- Engagement of school students and the community in the Margaret River Bioblitz 2016 in partnership with MRBTA at Mammoth Cave.
- Development of MOUs to strengthen working relationships with key partners.
- Improved communication through a new website and E-Newsletter.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE GROUP

- Become a member of the CCG
- Volunteer for on ground work or help us research and monitor our natural environment
- Join our newsletter email list to find out about our activities and events
- Contribute to our work through a 100% tax deductible donation

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR LOAN

- Weed control and tree planting equipment
- Dieback and marri decline treatment kits
- Books, manuals, reports, brochures and other technical information

THE CAPE TO CAPE TEAM

The Cape to Cape Catchments Group has a team of part time staff and a volunteer management committee:

Management Committee

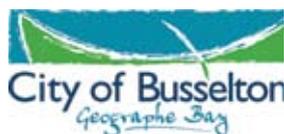
Chair: Dr Boyd Wykes
Vice Chair: Stuart Hicks
Secretary: John McKinney
Treasurer: Cass Jury
Members: Marg Moir
Rachael Wedd

Part-time Staff

Staff during 2015/16 equated to 1.7 full time staff and included:
Caroline Hughes, Drew McKenzie, Fran Dohring, Genevieve Hanran-Smith, Tracey Muir



KEY SUPPORTERS



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